Programme Specification ARO 034a

Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Scottish Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Literature and Languages</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>TXX43-SLT / TDX43-SLTCRW [creative writing pathway]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒ Part Time ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK ☒</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International ☐ Where:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Online ☐</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blended ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒ January ☐ Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>Full-time: 12 months. Part-Time: 24 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation</td>
<td>Name of accrediting body:N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Required for programme: No (delete as appropriate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Scott Hames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor of Studies</td>
<td>Scott Hames</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Approved</td>
<td>November 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Updated</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
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Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY
In literature as in politics, Scotland’s national status ‘is both dangled before us and tantalisingly withheld’ (Don Paterson).

This Master’s course views Scottish Literature in the light of this ambiguity and embraces the many questions it invites us to investigate. We explore key figures, texts and debates from the period of Regal Union (1603) to the present, often placing literary writing at the heart of cultural and political debate. We examine a full range of writers, texts and debates from the early modern period of the present, among them the works of Robert Burns, Walter Scott, James Hogg, right through to contemporary authors such as James Kelman, Janice Galloway and Kathleen Jamie (along with Robert Louis Stevenson, Nan Shepherd, Muriel Spark, and too many others to mention). Class discussion examines the complex means by which national literary identity is sustained, renewed and reconsidered – not forgetting the role of novelists and poets in integrating Scottish identity into the project of Britishness. This is the only Master’s course of its kind. As debate intensifies over Scotland’s cultural and political identity, the time is ripe to examine the role of writing in shaping the image and reality of the nation.

No previous experience in studying Scottish literature is required for this programme. Modules are taught by experts in their fields; research in Literature and Languages at the University of Stirling scored impressively in the most recent Research Excellence Framework, with over 80 percent of our research viewed as world leading or internationally excellent. Those interested in learning about the Scottish literary tradition while also writing creatively themselves may opt to follow a ‘Scottish Literature / Creative Writing’ pathway, which combines elements of the two programmes, allowing students to take modules from both.

“Scottish Literature will always be a topic that sparks questions: about its own difference and identity, and the nature of Scottish nationality itself. This course embraces the unsettled character of these questions, and explores them in an open and critical spirit” (Dr Scott Hames, Programme Director)

Key Features of the Programme

- Scottish Literature is a rich and fascinating subject, and its key debates are changing before our eyes. This Master’s programme engages directly with the questions (and self-questioning) the field provokes.
- Our programme draws directly on the research interests of passionate staff, who have an outstanding record of scholarship and criticism in Scottish literature
- This is the only taught postgraduate degree in Scottish Literature anywhere in the world.

PROGRAMME AIMS

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with literature that ranges across four centuries of the Scottish literary imagination, including key figures, texts and debates from the period of the Regal Union (1603) to the present.

2. Analyse and evaluate Scottish writing from a perspective shaped by critical theory as well as traditional literary history. The programme often places literary writing at the heart of cultural and political debate, and questions some of the assumptions that go along with studying a national literary tradition.

3. Generate compelling research questions and devise appropriate literary-critical methodologies for investigating them.

4. Conduct a cohesive and sustained critical argument that demonstrates deep knowledge and critical insight of the chosen dissertation topic, working independently with the assistance of a supervisor.

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WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Evidence understanding and specialised knowledge of selected areas of study within the field of Scottish literary studies (for example, texts and theories relating to Enlightenment, modernity, historicism, imperialism, identity), through individual and group participation in seminar discussion, and through the production of coursework (critical essays and the dissertation);
2. Employ analytical judgement and critical self-awareness as applied to the core cultural, theoretical and political contexts in which texts have been produced and read, expressed through seminar participation and coursework (critical essays and the dissertation);
3. Demonstrate critical understanding of scholarship and research in Scottish literary and cultural production, demonstrable through the development of critical context for essays, literature reviews, and the presentation of topics for essays and the dissertation.

Subject-specific skills and other attributes:

1. Engage with theoretical debates at the forefront of academic work in Scottish literary studies by locating, evaluating, synthesizing and using critical material from a variety of sources;
2. Exercise advanced critical skills in the analysis of literature and literary history, demonstrated through student-led seminar participation and essay-writing (from conception of a topic to submission of an assignment);
3. Demonstrate practical skill in the techniques and methodologies applicable to advanced scholarship and research in this field, evident through competence in library/archival research, literature review, bibliographic technique, scholarly presentation, and academic prose;
4. Formulate and construct a focused, coherent argument regarding literary texts, expressed through seminar discussion and the writing of critical essays, leading towards the conception, development, and delivery of a 15,000-word dissertation, written and presented at a level commensurate with postgraduate expectations (SCQF level 11).

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:

1. Express ideas effectively and communicate appropriately to the audience and accurately using a range of media including digital;
2. Develop working relationships using teamwork and leadership skills, recognizing and respecting different perspectives;
3. Find, evaluate, synthesise and use information from a variety of sources;
4. Argue rationally and draw independent conclusions based on a rigorous, analytical and critical approach to data, demonstration and argument;
5. Apply skills of critical analysis to real-world situations within a defined range of contexts;
6. Articulate an awareness of Scottish literature within a wider context, from the perspective of other areas of study, social, cultural and the wider-world context;
7. Demonstrate a high degree of professionalism characterized by an ethical approach to study and research; initiative, creativity, motivation and self-management;
8. Manage professional development by reflecting on progress and taking appropriate action.
9. Take professional approach to working independently or as part of a team, working to deadlines or within specified time limits

Values and Attitudes:

1. Openness to diverse forms of cultural expression and a variety of perspectives
2. Critical orientation toward received knowledge (includes self-critically revisiting own views and attitudes)
3. Intellectual ambition: aspiring to challenge and extend the current boundaries of the field
HOW WILL I LEARN?
Teaching will take the form of regular seminars in small groups. The core modules provide a thorough grounding in the knowledge and understanding of debates relating to Scottish literature and its history. Optional modules advance the range of knowledge, understanding and skills introduced in the core modules. Taught out of specialist staff expertise, the optional modules allow students to further develop their knowledge and understanding. Though all the modules will offer close and careful supervision, participants are expected to take proper responsibility for their own studies. The aim in all cases is to foster student-led learning in expert, stimulating and congenial company.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?
Assessment and Assessment Criteria
Assessment in each semester will be based on coursework essays. Assessment of subject-specific skills is made through the marking of the essays and dissertation. Submitted work enables students to develop and demonstrate their knowledge of the theoretical and critical bases of the discipline. The dissertation gives students the opportunity to undertake original research and to demonstrate a practical understanding of research skills and scholarly good practice.

The most significant piece of work on the course will be a dissertation of 15,000 words on a subject chosen by each student in consultation with a member of the Department. Students may choose to develop work initiated on one of the modules they have studied.

Feedback on Assessment
You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/] (http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

Assessment Regulations
If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: [Postgraduate – Taught](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

WHAT WILL I STUDY?
Outline Programme Structure
The list below shows compulsory and option modules for the MLitt in Scottish Literature. More information about module requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below

  Compulsory:

  - MSWPP01 – Regal Union to Empire
  - MSWPP10 – Renaissance to Present
  - MSWPP02 – Romantic/Modernist Engagements
  - MSWPP05 – Dissertation
**Options:**

MSWPP03 – Enlightenment Scotland and the Historical Novel
MSWPP04 – Modern Scottish Poetry
MSWPP07 – Writing Difference: Scottish Women Writers and Tradition
MSWPP08 – Writing Home: Scottish Landscape and Narrative

**Postgraduate**

**Full-time**

Total full-time credit value = 180  
Compulsory credits = 140  
Option credits = 40

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<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>MSWPP01 - Regal Union to Empire (20)</th>
<th>MSWPP10 - Renaissance to Present (20)</th>
<th>20 credits from Scottish Literature options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>MSWPP02 - Romantic/Modernist Engagements (20)</td>
<td>ARTPP02 - Training for Masters in the Arts and Humanities 2 (20)</td>
<td>20 credits from Scottish Literature options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td>MSWPP05 Dissertation (60)</td>
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</table>

**Part-time**

**Year 1**

Total year 1 credit value = 80  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Option credits = 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>MSWPP01 - Regal Union to Empire (20)</th>
<th>MSWPP10 - Renaissance to Present (20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>MSWPP02 - Romantic/Modernist Engagements (20)</td>
<td>20 credits from Scottish Literature options</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part-time**

**Year 2**

Total year 1 credit value = 100  
Compulsory credits = 80  
Option credits = 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>ARTPP01 - Training for Masters in the Arts and Humanities 1 (20)</th>
<th>20 credits from options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Summer</td>
<td>MSWPPP5 Dissertation (60)</td>
<td></td>
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**READING LIST**
Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme


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**Section 3 Student Support**

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

**Induction**

You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme. A timetable of faculty events will be available from August on our website.

**Study Skills Support**

Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.
All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

What SLS are able to do:

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/)

Stirling Graduate School
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/)

Academic and Pastoral Support

Adviser of Studies: Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at University. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/)

Personal Tutor: The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/)

Support and Wellbeing: At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/)

Student Union: you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/)

Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/)

Learning Resources
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/)

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**Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement**

**METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Module Evaluation**
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/)

**Programme Review**
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/)

**External Examiner(s)**
Name of External Examiner: Dr Robert Irvine
Institution: University of Edinburgh

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**Section 5 My Future**

**WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?**
Students aiming to enhance their career prospects will acquire advanced, independent learning skills – such as critical analysis and the ability to meet deadlines – that are highly sought after by employers and will prove useful in a variety of different career paths. Graduates of the course are now working as writers, teachers, civil servants, photographers and journalists.

**Graduate Attributes**
Through studying your degree programme you will become a subject specialist, with in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills associated with their discipline(s). Our ambition is that you will also be confident, aspirational graduates with the right skills and attitudes to connect; innovate and transform. On this programme you will have the opportunity to become:

- Connected
- With your discipline knowledge, understanding and skills with a range of complex real world issues
- with contributions from alumni, private, public and third sector to develop their employability skills
- with knowledge, experiences, and people providing different perspectives, to understand different cultures, beliefs and traditions
- and work in an inclusive learning community and with the wider community
- and communicate effectively through digital and other media

Innovative
- through active and ethical research
- through using the latest global research and new technologies to develop new understandings and creative solutions
- through independent critical and reflective thinking
- through identifying opportunities to improve what you do and taking action

Transformative
through your intellectual sporting and cultural passion and excellence
through sharing new perspectives and broadening horizons
through being professional, adaptable and resilient and equipped to succeed in the global market place
through being an active global citizen who is socially, culturally, and environmentally aware.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
N/A

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
N/A

WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?
The MLitt has a strong track record of leading to further academic study and research, with a number of previous students progressing to funded PhD studies.

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?
N/A

Section 6 Admissions

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?
A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent in a relevant subject. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant appropriate/relevant work/life experience are encouraged to apply.
A sample of work (e.g. English Essay) is required.

If English is not your first language you must have one of the following qualifications as evidence of your English language skills:

- IELTS: 6.0 with 5.5 minimum in each skill
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade C
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): 54 with 51 in each component
- IBT TOEFL: 80 with no subtest less than 17

For more information go to English language requirements

If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard. View our range of pre-sessional courses.